1 2 3 4 5 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 7 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA** 8 9 10 LISA REYES, 11 Plaintiff, Case No. 2:11-CV-01367-KJD-CWH 12 <u>ORDER</u> v. 13 BANK OF AMERICA, NA, et al., 14 Defendants. 15 16 Presently before the Court is the Motion to Dismiss Amended Complaint (#41) filed by 17 Defendants Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP 18 ("BANA"), ReconTrust Co., N.A. ("ReconTrust"), Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. 19 ("MERS"), and Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA")(collectively "Defendants"). 20 Plaintiff has filed an opposition (#44) and an addendum to her opposition (#46). Defendants have 21 filed a reply (#49). 22 I. Background 23 Plaintiff Lisa Slepicoff Reyes purchased real property at 10365 Talking Tree Ave., Las 24 Vegas, Nevada (the "Property") on March 28, 2005, with a loan for \$279,992 from HomeAmerican 25 Mortgage Corp. Plaintiff secured this loan with a Deed of Trust encumbering the Property. 26 Additionally, Plaintiff obtained a home equity line of credit on the Property in the amount of \$17,000 1

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and secured this loan with a second Deed of Trust. Both Deeds of Trust were recorded on March 31, 2005. MERS was listed as the beneficiary and nominee of the lender HomeAmerican Mortgage Corp.

Plaintiff defaulted and on July 1, 2010, BAC executed and recorded a Substitution of Trustee formally substituting ReconTrust as the trustee under the Deeds of Trust. On July 2, 2010 ReconTrust executed and recorded a Notice of Default on the Property.

Plaintiff elected not to participate in Nevada's Mandatory Foreclosure Mediation Program resulting in the State of Nevada issuing a certificate allowing the foreclosure to proceed. On March 7, 2011, ReconTrust recorded a Notice of Trustee's Sale, with a sale date of March 23, 2011. The sale was postponed and no sale has yet taken place. In September of 2011, the Notice of Default was rescinded.

The Court dismissed Plaintiff's previous complaint (#36), but gave Plaintiff leave to amend. Plaintiff filed her amended complaint which alleges two causes of action: (1) Violations of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act ("RESPA), and (2) Violations of NRS 107.

# II. Discussion A. Legal Standard for Motion to Dismiss

A court may dismiss a plaintiff's complaint for "failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted." Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). A properly pled complaint must provide "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2); Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007). While Rule 8 does not require detailed factual allegations, it demands "more than labels and conclusions" or a "formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action." Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)

(citations omitted). "Factual allegations must be enough to rise above the speculative level."

Twombly, 550 U.S. at 555. Thus, to survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter to "state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." Iqbal, 556 U.S. at 678 (citation omitted).

1 considering motions to dismiss. First, a district court must accept as true all well-pled factual 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

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allegations in the complaint; however, legal conclusions are not entitled to the assumption of truth. Id. at 1950. Mere recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported only by conclusory statements, do not suffice. Id. at 1949. Second, a district court must consider whether the factual allegations in the complaint allege a plausible claim for relief. Id. at 1950. A claim is facially plausible when the plaintiff's complaint alleges facts that allows the court to draw a reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the alleged misconduct. Id. at 1949. Where the complaint does not permit the court to infer more than the mere possibility of misconduct, the complaint has "alleged—but not shown—that the pleader is entitled to relief." Id. (internal quotation marks omitted). When the claims in a complaint have not crossed the line from conceivable to plausible, the complaint must be dismissed. Twombly, 550 U.S. at 570.

In Iqbal, the Supreme Court clarified the two-step approach district courts are to apply when

# B. RESPA Claim

RESPA provides that "[i]f any servicer of a federally related mortgage loan receives a qualified written request from the borrower (or an agent of the borrower) for information relating to the servicing of such loan, the servicer shall provide a written response acknowledging receipt of the correspondence within 20 days ... unless the action requested is taken within such period." 12 U.S.C. § 2605(e)(1)(A). A qualified written request ("QWR") must identify an error in the account and provide sufficient detail regarding information sought by the borrower. Coleman v. American Home Mortg. Servicing, Inc., 2011 WL 6131309, 4 (D.Nev. 2011). Requests that are "more akin to a discovery demand than a qualified written request" are improper and a servicer does not violate RESPA when it fails to reply with documentation and information unrelated to a specified error in the account. See Moon v. Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., 2010 WL 522753, 5 (D.Nev.) (D.Nev. 2010) (letter with over one hundred questions and demands for information was not a proper QWR). Failure to respond to a QWR alone "does not substantiate an RESPA claim. Id. In order to recover for failure to provide a qualified written request, a plaintiff must also demonstrate a pecuniary loss.

Id. (Citing 12 U.S.C. § 2605(f)(1)(A).

As an initial matter, Plaintiff admits that Defendant BANA *did* respond to her letters. <u>See</u>

Opposition at 5-6. Plaintiff's allegation is that BANA did not provide the response she wanted. The

Court refuses to allow this claim to proceed. The letters do not identify any specific error, as

required by the statute, and appear to be a dilatory tactic by the Plaintiff. It is obvious that Plaintiff

copied the language of these letters from another source. The letters alternate between using single

and plural personal pronouns, read like discovery requests, and seek responses to over one hundred

different inquiries on every conceivable aspect of the parties' interaction. In fact, the bulk of the

language in Plaintiff's requests is the exact same language which Judge Reed found insufficient to

support an RESPA claim in the <u>Moon</u> case. Further, Plaintiff has no plausible theory of pecuniary

damages. The overreaching, non-specific, copy-and-paste letters sent by Plaintiff, and this claim,

which is based on them, are an abuse of RESPA. This claim is dismissed with prejudice.

# C. NRS 107

NRS 107 allows a court to void a trustee sale if, *inter alia*, the person or entity that conducted the sale did not substantially comply with the statute. It does not provide a private right of action. <u>See</u> Berilo v. HSBC Mortg. Corp., USA 2010 WL 2667218, 3 (D. Nev. 2010).

This claim is not viable because no trustee's sale has occurred. In fact, the Notice of Default has been rescinded and Plaintiff's loan has been modified. Plaintiff cites <u>Leyva v. Nat'l Default Servicing Corp.</u>, 255 P.3d 1275 (Nev.2011) in support of her argument that she is entitled to some kind of relief under NRS 107. <u>Leyva</u> is inapplicable because it deals with judicial review of the Nevada Foreclosure Mediation Program. Accordingly, this claim is dismissed.<sup>1</sup>

### D. Lis Pendens

NRS § 14.010 allows a Notice of Pendency or a Lis Pendens to be filed for an action pending

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Even the most basic legal research should have demonstrated to Plaintiff's counsel that this claim was defective. The Court reminds Plaintiff's counsel that Rule 11 and the Rules of Professional Conduct require her to properly investigate all claims, and forbid her from signing pleadings containing baseless assertions. Plaintiff's counsel is strongly cautioned that failure to comply with these rules will not be tolerated.

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in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada when there is "a notice of an action affecting real property, which is pending," in any such court. NRS § 14.010(2).

This Order dismisses this action with prejudice. Accordingly, the Lis Pendens is cancelled and expunged.

#### E. Leave to Amend

Rule 15(a)(2) provides that courts "should freely give leave [to amend] when justice so requires." Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2). Under this standard, there is a general "policy to permit amendment with 'extreme liberality.'" Chodos v. West Publ'g Co., 292 F.3d 992, 1003 (9th Cir. 2002) (quoting Morongo Band of Mission Indians v. Rose, 893 F.2d 1074, 1079 (9th Cir. 1990)). However, where there is undue prejudice to the opposing party or futility of amendment, a court need not grant leave to amend. see Bonin v. Calderon, 59 F.3d 815, 845 (9th Cir. 1995).

Plaintiff's two complaints have both been severely deficient. If Plaintiff had any viable claims, she would have asserted them. Further amendment would be futile and would prejudice Defendants. Accordingly, dismissal of these claims is with prejudice and further amendment is not permitted. Plaintiff may not seek reconsideration of this order.

# III. Conclusion

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Motion to Dismiss Amended Complaint (#41) is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this action is DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE and the Lis Pendens is cancelled and expunged.

DATED this 5th day of December 2012.

Kent J. Dawson

United States District Judge